

# SPARK 2 SUMMIT AGENDA

**April 30, 2026**

**LET'S GROW!**

**8:00 – 8:30 a.m.: Check-In & Networking**

Enjoy a light breakfast.

**8:30 – 8:45 a.m.: Welcome & Opening Remarks**

Revisiting the “why” of middle school career exploration for all.

**8:45 – 9:15 a.m.: Catalyzing Change, Changing Outcomes + Student Panel**

Learn about the why and how of the Agua Fria UHSD academy model and hear from students from Goodyear High School’s inaugural freshman class about how it’s shaping their high school experience.

**9:15 – 10:00 a.m.: Making It Happen, Part I**

Get glimpses into three different approaches to planning and implementation of systemic middle school career exploration that are underway right now, including the green lights and speed bumps each district is experiencing. This session will include opportunities for questions and discussion.

- **Litchfield Elementary School District:** Presented by Laura Combs, Director of Educational Technology
- **Nadaburg Unified School District:** Presented by Kathryn Strevell, Ed.D., Director of Career and Technical Education, Workforce Development, Dual Enrollment and NOVA

**10:05 – 11:10 a.m.: Breakout Sessions** (Round 1: 10:05-10:35; Round 2: 10:40-11:10)

▶ **Resource Spotlight**

Shining the light on foundational, no-cost resources for middle school career exploration:

- **Possible Futures Curriculum: Lenses on the Future and Skills for Success:** Presented by Erin McGehean, Project Manager, College & Career Pathways, Western Maricopa County, Center for the Future of Arizona
- **MyFutureAZ / Early ECAP:** Presented by Katherine Adams, Executive Vice President, Pipeline Connects

▶ **Partnership Building**

Practical tips for enhancing your career exploration efforts through business and community engagement. Presented by Kevin Dumcum, Director of Regional Workforce Development, WESTMARC

**11:15 – 11:40 a.m.: Making It Happen, Part II**

- **Paradise Valley Unified School District:** Presented by Melissa Molzhon, CTE Director, and Jacqueline Clayton, District Lead School Counselor

**11:40– 11:55 a.m.: Introducing the Career Exploration Readiness Index**

**11:55 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.: What’s Next?**

Closing thoughts from presenters and attendees.

**PRESENTING PARTNERS**



**SPARK. GROW. EMPOWER.**